Swamy, and some Indian businessmen. Dr. Subramanian Swamy reportedly described his visit as a "private fact finding mission".

(c) the African National Congress has criticised the delegation's attendance of the opening of the tri-cameral parliament which the ANC regards as a racist institution.

Diplomatic relations with Russian Republics

1603. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded recognition to the 12 independent Republics which so far were under the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to establish diplomatic relations with them;

(c) whether any agreements are proposed to be concluded with those Republics separately for maintaining friendship with them and continuing cooperation with them in respect of trade and commerce; and

(d) if so, details of steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Diplomatic relations continue to exist with Russia and have already been established with Adarbaijan, Kazakhstan and Ukraina. The process of establishment of diplomatic relations with the other Republics is underway.

(c) and (d) Agreements/Treaties would be signed with each of the independent Republics of the erstwhile USSR after bilateral consultations taking into account complementarity of interests and the need for development of cooperation in diverse and specific areas for mutual benefit. Some Agreements have already been signed with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Discussions are underway for conclusion of such Agreements with the other Republics such as Russia. Ukrains, Kirghhizstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Tadjikistan, as necessary.

Outcome of SAARC Meeting

1604. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects discussed at the SAARC meeting held recently at Colombo;

(b) important decisions taken at that meeting in respect of mutual cooperation among the SAARC nations;

(c) the measures, if any, suggested at that meeting to tackle international terrorism; and

(d) details of follow-up action being taken in respect of the above decisions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Tht subjects discussed at the Sixth SAARC Summit held on December 21, 1991 at Colombo extended from international economic and political issues to proposals to strengthen the Association and project collective positions in international fora, measures for poverty alleviation in South Asia, regional economic cooperation and cooptration onenvironmental matters. Also included in the discussions were: provision of adequate shelter in the region, better

care for children, combat of terrorism and drug trafficking, greater inter-action between NGOs and madia in SAARC region and cooperation in science and technology, particularly in the field of bio-technology.

(b) Important decisions taken at that meeting relate to setting up of a Commission on Poverty Alleviation, an Inter-Governmental Group to further the prospects of trade liberalisation, a Committee on Environment to promote cooperative measures in this field; immlementation of Visa Exemption scheme, in respect of entitled categories, for teavel among SAARC countries from March 1, and the fight against terrorism.

(c) SAARC leaders recognised that cooperation among SAARC Member States was vital if terrorism is to be prevented and eliminated from the region. They urged Member States to take all necessary measures to give effect to their obligations under the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. Pending adoption of enabling legislations, the Member States were urged to continue to take practical measures of cooperation provided for the Convention. The leaders stressed the need for a constant dialogue and interaction among agencies of SAARC Member States for effective implementation of this Convention.

(d) The SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism was ratified by all Member States in August, 1988. Some Member States of SAARC including India will need to enact enabling legislation in order to implement the Convention for which action is under way. Meetings of experts have been held to discuss how cooperation among Member States in the framework of the Convention can be advanced.

Warning to Pakistan

1605. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minnster of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any warnings have been given by Government of India to Pakistan to stop their giving encouragement to anti-nationals engaged in terrorist activities in India;

(b) whether Pakistan has responded to those warnings; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to tackle the activities of terrorists who were infiltrating into India from across the border?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Government have on several occasions and at various levels urged Pakistan to stop its support and encouragement to terrorist activities directed against India.

(b) Pakistan continues to claim that it does not support terrorism directed against India. However, there is overwhelming evidence on the ground that Pakistan's support to terrorism continues unabated.

(c) Government maintain a constant vigil on the borders to prevent infiltration and have intensified operations against terrorists.

Supply of Crude Oil from Iraq

@1606. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Iraq has offered the Crude Oil in lieu of Indian Funds blocked in that country;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

@Priviously unstarred Question 1072, transferred from the 4th March, 1992.